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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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## **MAYOR PEREZ ANNOUNCES NEW \$20,000,000 DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT**

**HARTFORD, CT-** MAYOR EDDIE A. PEREZ JOINED ELDEN HALE THE VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER OF WFSB CHANNEL 3 IN ANNOUNCING TODAY THAT THE TELEVISION STATION WILL BE BUILDING A NEW \$20 MILLION BROADCAST FACILITY ON MAIN STREET IN HARTFORD, WITH AN ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE OF 2007. MEREDITH CORPORATION, THE PARENT COMPANY OF WFSB, HAS AGREED WITH THE CITY TO PURSUE A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT THAT WOULD RESULT IN THE RETENTION OF CHANNEL 3 WITH ITS 200 EMPLOYEES AND \$11 MILLION PAYROLL IN DOWNTOWN HARTFORD.

“TODAY’S ANNOUNCEMENT IS ANOTHER INDICATION THAT HARTFORD IS GREAT PLACE TO DO BUSINESS,” STATED HARTFORD MAYOR EDDIE A. PEREZ. “THE COMMITMENT BY WFSB AND MEREDITH CORPORATION TO INVEST \$20 MILLION IN A LEADING BROADCASTING TELEVISION FACILITY RIGHT IN DOWNTOWN IS BUILDING ON THE TREMENDOUS MOMENTUM OF DEVELOPMENT THAT YOU SEE IN EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD OF OUR CITY. WFSB CHANNEL 3 HAS BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR COMMUNITY FOR FIVE DECADES, AND WE ARE EXCITED THAT THEY HAVE MADE THE DECISION TO REINVEST IN HARTFORD.”

“THIS NEW DIGITAL BROADCAST FACILITY IS A COMMITMENT TO OUR VIEWERS THROUGHOUT CONNECTICUT”, SAID HALE. “WFSB-TV IS THE MOST WATCHED TELEVISION STATION IN THE STATE. AS THE NUMBER ONE NEWS STATION, THIS NEW HOME WILL ENABLE *EYEWITNESS NEWS* TO DELIVER EVEN MORE NEWS AND INFORMATION PROGRAMMING OVER THE AIR, CABLE, SATELLITE AND THE INTERNET.”

THE HARTFORD CITY COUNCIL HAS CALLED A SPECIAL MEETING FOR AUGUST 31, 2004 TO RECEIVE A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DEAL AND BEGIN THE PUBLIC PROCESS THAT WILL ALLOW THE MAYOR, UPON APPROVAL, TO FORMALLY SIGN A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH MEREDITH AND WFSB. THE RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY THE MAYOR CALLS FOR THE TRANSFER OF WFSB'S PRESENT CONSTITUTION PLAZA SITE TO THE CITY AND \$800,000 IN CASH IN EXCHANGE FOR THE CITY OWNED 3.4 ACRE "12B" SITE ON MAIN STREET. A SEVEN YEAR PHASE IN OF CITY TAXES WILL RESULT IN A SIGNIFICANT NET GAIN TO MUNICIPAL TAX REVENUE OVER WFSB'S PRESENT FACILITY.

"THIS AGREEMENT KEEPS THE MOMENTUM OF DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT MOVING NORTH OF I-84 AND BUILDS AN IMPORTANT LINK TO OUR CITY NEIGHBORHOODS NORTH OF THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT. ADDITIONALLY, THE CITY'S ACQUISITION OF THE PRESENT WFSB SITE WILL PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO SPUR ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT ALONG THE RIVERFRONT." MAYOR PEREZ STATED.